

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 260

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize Chaplain (COL-R) Alvin E. Miller Sr. of the United States Army on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those religious, military, and community leaders who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service; and

WHEREAS, Chaplain (COL-R) Alvin E. Miller Sr. is one such estimable individual, who has inspired this nation with his faith, courage, and leadership and who will be taking a much-deserved retirement from the United States Army after more than thirty-two years of service both on active duty and in the U.S. Army Reserve program; and

WHEREAS, a native of Fort Pierce, Florida, Alvin Miller was the second oldest of ten children born to Ms. Elizabeth Miller, an unwed migrant worker. Despite growing up in poverty, he graduated from high school with both academic and athletic honors; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Miller commenced his distinguished military career in 1979 as a cadet in the Eastern Kentucky University Senior ROTC program. In addition to his military pursuits, he demonstrated great athletic prowess as a walk-on football player for the University and, in 1979, became the team's leading rusher and the second leading rusher in the Ohio Valley Conference, helping Eastern Kentucky University land its first NCAA Division I-AA National Championship in football; he was named Most Valuable Player of the game by ABC Television and Chevrolet; and

WHEREAS, in August 1981, Alvin Miller received his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, making him the first family member of five generations to graduate from college; upon

graduation, he received his commission from the Department of Defense as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, he served in the Ordnance Branch and Armor Branch, graduating from Armor Advanced Course and Chaplain Corps; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Miller was selected by the United States Army to serve as an Aide-de-Camp for Brigadier General Merwyn Lee Jackson of the 100th Division Training in Louisville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, in December 1988, Alvin Miller earned his Master of Divinity degree in pastoral care and chaplaincy from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, after which he served as the Governor's Drug-Free Communities Coordinator under Florida Governor Robert Martinez. He then returned to active duty in the Army as a battalion chaplain at the United States Army Field Artillery Training Center in Lawton, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, during times of war, Chaplain Miller served on active duty at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Stewart, Georgia; and Fort Campbell, Kentucky; he provided Rear Detachment Chaplain support to families and soldiers, which included providing services to families and soldiers in time of death. Alvin Miller earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Oral Roberts University in 1999; and

WHEREAS, in March 2013, he was consecrated to the office of Bishop at the foothills of Cornell University by the Ministerial Association Alliance of the Apostolic Faith in Ithaca, New York; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Tennessee for the past eleven years, the Reverend Dr. Miller serves as pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksville, where he performs selfless deeds of compassion for those in need, including supporting schools, children in need, the Boy Scouts, and the homeless population; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, Bishop Miller is the author of *The Radical and Controversial Jesus*; in addition, he is the recipient of numerous military, education, and civic awards, including the United States Army Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Achievement Medal,

Army Service Ribbon, Outstanding Young Men of America, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, Who's Who Among America's Teachers, St. Lucie County and Florida Most Outstanding Religious Leader Award, and Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Bishop Miller is perhaps most grateful for the love, support, and companionship of his wife, the former Dominique Haywood, their five children, and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, seldom do gentlemen of his stature walk among us, and it is appropriate that we honor Dr. Miller for his life's many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Chaplain (COL-R) Alvin E. Miller Sr. upon thirty-two years of faithful service to his country as a distinguished member of the United States Army, and we honor and commend him for living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.